



IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

THE WILLIAM F. GOODLING EVEN START FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM, Title I, Part B, Subpart 3

The Even Start Family Literacy program provides low-income families with integrated literacy services to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. Families with children from birth through seven years of age are eligible to participate.

Approximately 30,000 families nationwide participate in the Even Start program. In California, the Even Start program serves approximately 2,600 families and 3,100 children.

The Even Start program offers four integrated components: adult education, early childhood education, parenting education, and parent and child interactive literacy. Parents and children are required to participate in all of the components in order to maintain their enrollment in the program.

The Even Start program was reauthorized in December 2000 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001. The *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* Act incorporated the following changes:

- Local programs are required to implement instructional programs that are grounded in scientifically based reading and preventing reading difficulties research. Reading readiness activities for preschool children are provided so that children may enter school ready to read.
- All Even Start programs are required to provide intense, year-round services, including academic instruction during the summer and at times that accommodate parents' and children's joint participation.
- All local Even Start programs are required to build upon existing, *high quality*, community resources. Prior to the reauthorization, programs were required to build on *existing* services for the purpose of avoiding duplication of services. The law now states that programs are required to build upon existing services *only if they are of high quality*.
- Section 9501 of *NCLB* requires that entities that operate Even Start programs consult with and provide equitable services to private schools.
- Local programs must hire qualified staff. *Instructional staff*: All new instructional staff hired since December 2000 must meet the following qualifications: "...a majority of the individuals providing academic instruction shall have obtained an associate's, bachelor's or graduate degree in a field related to early childhood education, elementary school or secondary school education, or adult education;

and, if applicable, shall meet qualifications established by the State for early childhood education, elementary school or secondary school education, or adult education provided as part of an Even Start program or another family literacy program.” For Even Start projects existing before Dec. 2000, a majority of Even Start instructional staff must meet the above qualifications before December 2004. *Program Administrator*: By December 2004 the local program’s administrator must receive training in operating a family literacy program. *Paraprofessionals*: By Dec. 2004 all paraprofessionals that provide instructional support must have a high school diploma or a GED (Section 1235 of Even Start statute).

Additional information about the Even Start program will be provided in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

A REMINDER ABOUT FEDERAL CLASS SIZE REDUCTION

Effective with the 2002-03 fiscal year, the Title VI Federal Class Size Reduction program no longer exists. Funding for the program has been consolidated with the former Title II Eisenhower Professional Development funds and placed into Title II, Part A of *NCLB*.

For program information on the new Title II, Part A, please contact Rob Lee at (916) 323-5799 or rlee@cde.ca.gov. For fiscal information, please contact Carol Presnell at (916) 323-6191 or cpresnell@cde.ca.gov.

TRANSFERABILITY GUIDANCE AVAILABLE

The United States Department of Education (USDE) has released draft guidance on the new “transferability” option included in *NCLB*. This new authority permits local educational agencies (LEAs) to transfer half of their funds under each of four major formula programs – Title II teacher training grants, Title II Part D technology assistance, Title IV Safe and Drug Free, and Innovative Strategies in Title V – into any or all of the other three. Agencies also may transfer funds into, but not out of, Title I Part A.

Although transferability involves no formal application and requires no approval by a higher authority, the LEA must provide to CDE a 30-day notice of intent to transfer and a modified local plan, if applicable, no later than 30 days after the date of the transfer. The guidance makes it clear that states and local agencies may transfer funds an unlimited number of times in any given year, thus allowing agencies the freedom to make funding adjustments at any time.

The means of notifying CDE of any transfer is Page 12 of the Consolidated Application (ConApp) Part II. LEAs provide notice of subsequent transfers by revising Page 12 and resubmitting the ConApp electronically.

There are some things to consider, however, before making the transfer. Private school officials *must* be consulted prior to making any transfers. Also, all transferred funds will be subject to the set-asides and earmarks applicable to the program to which funds are transferred.

The USDE Draft Guidance on the Transferability Authority may be viewed at:
www.ed.gov/flexibility/transferabilityguidance.doc.

(Please note that the aforementioned ConApp, which is the application districts submit to CDE in order to receive categorical funding, should not be confused with California's Consolidated State Application for NCLB, submitted by the State Board of Education to USDE.)

MILITARY RECRUITMENT and RELEASE OF STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Section 9528 of *NCLB* requires that each LEA that receives any funds under ESEA, not just Title I, must comply with a request by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education for secondary students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers, unless a parent has "opted out" of providing such information. This applies to all secondary schools in any district receiving funds under the ESEA.

Section 9528 also requires LEAs that receive funds under the ESEA to provide military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as they generally provide to postsecondary institutions or prospective employers. For example, if a school has a policy of allowing postsecondary institutions or prospective employers to come on school property to provide information to students about educational or professional opportunities, it must afford the same access to military recruiters.

Under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), an LEA must provide notice to parents of the types of student information that it releases publicly. This type of student information, commonly referred to as "directory information," includes such items as names, addresses, and telephone numbers and is information generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The notice must include an explanation of a parent's right to request that the information not be disclosed without prior written consent.

Additionally, Section 9528 requires that parents be notified that the school routinely discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon request, subject to a parent's request not to disclose such information without written consent. A single notice provided through a mailing, student handbook, or other method that is reasonably calculated to inform parents of the above information is sufficient to satisfy the parental notification requirements of both FERPA and Section 9528. The notification must advise a parent of *how to opt out* of the public, nonconsensual disclosure of directory information *and the method and timeline* during which to do so.

This requirement is now in effect. Failure to comply may result in federal sanctions, including loss of funding. To access recently released information, including Frequently Asked Questions, go to Military Educational Opportunities Web page at
www.cde.ca.gov/ci/military.html.

A model "directory information" notification for use by LEAs incorporating the changes under Section 9528 is available at the USDE Web site:
www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc.

Guidance on Access for and Disclosures to Military Recruiters can be found at: www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc/hot_topics.html.

For additional information, contact Robert Cervantes, Manager, Curriculum Leadership Unit, at rcervantes@cde.ca.gov.

SAVE A DATE

NCLB regional workshops sponsored by the California Private School Advisory Committee are being planned for private school principals and school district Consolidated Program Directors. The workshops focus on provisions in *NCLB* that relate to private schools and their interaction with public schools.

As this newsletter goes to print, times and locations are being finalized, and more detailed information will be provided in the next issue of the “*NCLB* Update.” For now, administrators may want to pencil a note of “HOLD” in their calendars and plan to attend the meeting nearest them:

January 23, 2003 - Sacramento
January 24, 2003 - Fresno
February 4, 2003 - Orange County
February 5, 2003 - Los Angeles
February 11, 2003 - Bay Area
February 13, 2003 - Los Angeles

For additional details, questions may be e-mailed to Joyce Maksin, Private School Liaison, Sacramento County Office of Education, at jmaksin@scoe.net.

Administrators who would like to review or catch up on correspondence from CDE regarding NCLB may refer to the following Web site:
www.cde.ca.gov/pr/nclb.